

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kohchi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0006220, hereinafter referred to as "Kohchi."

Claims 4, 6, 10, 12, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Kohchi in view of Lech et al., U.S. patent No. 5,369,508, hereinafter referred to as "Lech."

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

**ITEMS 1-2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 13-18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101 AS ALLEGEDLY BEING DIRECTED TO NON-STATUTORY SUBJECT MATTER:**

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In accordance with the foregoing, the claims are amended, taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-18 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection is respectfully requested.

**ITEMS 3-4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17 AND 19-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AS ALLEGEDLY BEING ANTICIPATED BY KOHCHI:**

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, 19 and 20 are allegedly anticipated by Kohchi.

The Office Action asserts that the claimed "designating part designating an area to be processed in said real document," as recited, for example, in claim 1 of the present application, is disclosed in the paragraph [0048] of Kohchi. Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion because Kohchi at paragraph 48 recites:

Next, at a step S102, the document-image recognition device detects a background color of an input image (an original image). Subsequently, at a step S103, the document-image recognition device reduces a size of the original image to limit an access cost to the original image. At a step S104, the document-image recognition device creates runs from pixels whose colors are different from the background color, for the reduced-size image. At a step S105, the document-image recognition device creates small rectangles by combining the runs. The document-image recognition device, then, combines all the small rectangles to create large-size rectangles, at a step S106. It should be noted that the step S102 and the step S103 can be switched.

In this paragraph, Kohchi only discloses some steps: detection of a background color of an original image (S 102); size reduction of the original image (S 103); creation of pixel runs with a different color from the background color (S 104); creation of small rectangles by combining the runs (S 105); and combination of the small rectangles (S 106).

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed “designating part designating an area to be processed in said real document,” as recited, for example, in claim 1, clearly differs from steps 102-106 of Kohchi. However, in order to emphasize a difference between the claimed “designating part designating an area to be processed in said real document,” as recited, for example, in claim 1, and the cited portion of Kohchi, the applicant have amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 19 and 20 to recite, using claimed 1 as an example, “a designating part designating an area to be processed in said real document and an attribute of the area, the area and the attribute specified by a user manipulating a designating device.” Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, in the specification at page 8, line 23 to page 12, line 18.

The designating part of the embodiment of the present invention may, for example, designate an area to be processed in a real document as well as the information attribute of the area such as a character string, a table and a drawing. The area and the information attribute are specified by a user manipulating a designating device, such as an electronic pen, rather than in an automatic manner. This user manipulation facilitates information recognition of the specified area with higher accuracy by using a dictionary suitable for the specified attribute. In one embodiment, for example, a user can specify the specific mode, such as name mode, address mode and phone number mode, of a character string of an area. One benefit of the embodiment is, for example, that the apparatus could recognize information of the area by using a dictionary suitable for the specified mode with higher accuracy.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of anticipation can not be based upon Kohchi, because Kohchi fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and

every feature of the claimed embodiment, for example, the claimed "designating part designating an area to be processed in said real document and an attribute of the area, the area and the attribute specified by a user manipulating a designating device; a detecting part detecting said area to be processed designated by said designating part; a reading part reading an image of said area to be processed; a character recognition part recognizing said image of the area to be processed as text information; and a pasting part pasting a result of said character recognition part to a pertinent position of said document displayed by the computer," as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 7, 13, 19 and 20 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for similar reasons as independent claim 1.

Dependent claims are patentably distinguishing at least due to their dependence from the independent claims and/or recite patentably distinguishing features of their own.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

**ITEMS 5-6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 6, 10, 12, 16 AND 18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS ALLEGEDLY BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER KOHCHI, IN VIEW OF LECH:**

Dependent claims 4, 6, 10, 12, 16 and 18 are patentably distinguishing at least due to their dependence from the independent claims and/or recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. Withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing has demonstrated that claims 1-20 patentably distinguish over the references and rejections of record.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

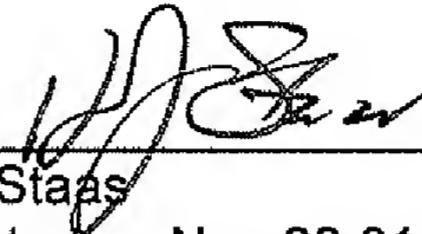
Serial No. 10/602,624

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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